

WHAT IS STREP THROAT?

Strep throat is an infection of the tonsils/throat caused by the streptococcal bacteria. Strep throat is most common in school-age children and young adults.

Persons with strep throat often have a sore, red throat; headache and/or stomach ache; vomiting; tender, swollen neck glands; fever; and rash. Any or all of these could be present. There are serious kidney and/or heart problems that could develop if strep throat is not diagnosed and treated.

HOW IS STREPTOCOCCAL BACTERIA SPREAD?

Strep bacteria are spread by direct contact with someone who has strep throat by means of kissing, sharing cups or eating the same food. Infections may also be spread by droplets of bacteria in the air during a cough or sneeze.

HOW IS STREP THROAT TREATED?

A throat culture must be taken to diagnose strep throat. This may be done by your health care provider. If the culture is positive, meaning that your child is infected with the strep bacteria, your health care provider will prescribe an antibiotic for your child to take for up to 10 days. The medication course should be completed to avoid a relapse of the illness. Over the counter medications such as Tylenol or Motrin can be left in a locked drawer in the school office for occasional use to treat pain or discomfort. Please fill out a medication consent form available in the office. **Medication brought to school in baggies or envelopes will NOT be accepted. Medication needs to be in its original container and clearly labeled.**

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Your child may return to school 24 hours after starting the antibiotic medication AND your child is fever free and feeling well enough to participate in all classroom activities.